

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

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*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

State opposed permit deal accepted by company

CHARLESTON GAZETTE CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's environmental regulators threatened to sue the Obama administration over tougher language in a mountaintop removal permit, even though the company seeking the permit accepted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new water quality limits. The language was contained in one of two key permits that CONSOL Energy still needed to begin operations at the Buffalo Mountain Surface Mine being proposed as part of the King Coal Highway project in Mingo County. EPA had said it would not allow the state to issue CONSOL's Clean Water Act pollution discharge permit without a provision to force action to control mine runoff if levels of pollution-related electrical conductivity, which scientists say is a crucial measure of water quality. Department of Environmental Protection officials opposed the inclusion of such language and in a letter last week threatened to take EPA to court over it. DEP officials eventually agreed to allow the language. EPA dropped its objections to the permit, and on Monday the state issued the permit worked out by CONSOL officials and EPA representatives. "It's not a permit we normally would have approved," said DEP Secretary Randy Huffman. "We feel it has more in it than is necessary." The 2,300-acre permit -- among the largest single strip-mining projects ever proposed in Appalachia -- remains hung up as federal officials complete a more detailed environmental study and review a second Clean Water Act permit to allow mining waste to be dumped into streams. On Tuesday, CONSOL cited "a sequence of permit delays" when it announced plans to lay off 145 workers from an existing operation. Mining is nearly complete at that mine, the Miller Creek operation, and CONSOL had planned to move its workers to the Buffalo Mountain project. The company's announcement prompted strong reactions from West Virginia political leaders, with Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Democratic members of the state's congressional delegation saying they were "incensed" that EPA was delaying the mining permit and the highway project.

Blog: EPA responds to CONSOL permit criticism

CHARLESTON GAZETTE Last evening's coverage of the CONSOL announcement about layoffs that it and state political leaders are blaming on the Obama administration EPA noted that federal agency officials had not yet commented on the matter — which isn't unusual, given. The AP story included the common refrain from journalists these days that EPA did not respond to requests for comment. In [my blog post](#), I went back and quoted from letters showing EPA's previously expressed concerns about the impacts of this project. Finally this morning, we received the following comment from EPA press secretary Alisha Johnson: *EPA is not aware of any outstanding permitting issues for the Miller Creek mine, where CONSOL Energy has announced that layoffs are occurring. Review of the company's Buffalo Mountain mining project is a high-priority for EPA. The Agency is actively working with the State of West Virginia and CONSOL, and with its partner federal agencies, to assess impacts on water quality from mining, and is meeting with CONSOL to review its mining plans. Last Friday, EPA*

notified West Virginia officials that the agency's concerns about the State's draft Clean Water Act Section 402 permit to address potential pollution discharges from CONSOL's proposed Buffalo Mountain Coal Mine have been resolved. The draft 402 permit was submitted to EPA by the state in late 2011, and the state made additional submissions to EPA as late as this October. The Agency then worked to make a decision as quickly as possible. This step will enable the state to approve a permit for discharges associated with the mine. EPA is taking this step after reviewing new information provided by CONSOL, detailing actions that will be taken by the company to reduce potential water quality impacts from the mine. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to review the proposed mine under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and to complete preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act. EPA will work with our federal and state agency partners to complete the CWA and NEPA processes for the Buffalo Mountain project and associated King Coal Highway. Review under the Clean Water Act and NEPA will help ensure that the overall project protects water quality and safeguards public health, while providing valuable economic benefits

Waterlogged towns dealing with aftermath

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL A pontoon boat was floating down the road past Douglas Malsbury's canal-front house in South Bethany until someone tied it to a tree. Another boat ended up in a neighbor's front yard. A block away, 30 inches of floodwater had soaked couches and flooring in a home not built on a raised foundation, and the owner's friends were salvaging what they could. The brand-new SUV parked in the driveway wouldn't start; it was waterlogged. Malsbury's two flood-damaged cars were towed away Wednesday morning too. For Malsbury, it was the worst flooding of Delaware's inland bays in his memory. "I've been here for 20 years and I've never seen it this high," Malsbury, 79, said as he looked at damage the flooded canal had done to his back deck. Concrete moorings for the pilings had come apart, pushing in one side of the deck. No part of Delaware was completely unscathed, but the southeasternmost part of the state took some of the hardest hits in the hours before Sandy landed devastating blows on New Jersey, New York and New England. Surging waves and winds drove two feet and more of water and mud into some homes on Prime Hook Beach, and flooding submerged roads, closing off access to Prime Hook Beach and, farther north, to Woodland Beach. Aerial photos show a protective dune at the northernmost end of Prime Hook Beach had been wiped away. For the coastal towns of Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach, South Bethany and Fenwick Island, Hurricane Sandy delivered a counterintuitive kind of damage. Homes in beachfront blocks, closer to the hurricane and the waves it churned up, were generally protected from erosion and flooding by dunes and beach replenishment efforts. But neighborhoods on the west side of Route 1, on the land's downward slope into marshy areas and inland bays, didn't fare as well. West winds from Sandy and storm surges pushed water across canal bulkheads – many homes back up to canals leading to Lighthouse Cove and Little Bay – and onto their streets, causing widespread flooding and leaving sand and debris blocking the road.

Markell lifts state of emergency for Sussex

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL Gov. Jack Markell removed the state of emergency that was still in effect for Sussex County today. The states of emergency for New Castle County and Kent County were lifted Tuesday. Sussex officials reported at 1 p.m. that all evacuation areas had been cleared to open. Shelters at Indian River High School, Dover High School and William Penn High School closed this morning. Bulldozers and a front-end loader from the Delaware National Guard bolstered the contingent of heavy machinery pushing, lifting and heaving tons and tons of sand off of Del. 1 north of the Indian River Inlet in Sussex County this morning, as cleanup from Superstorm Sandy continued around Delaware. Officials from the state Department of Transportation expect workers will finish clearing the sand by day's end. Engineers believe the bridge structure and roadway are structurally sound, but they will continue to assess the physical conditions before motorists may resume use of the highway. On both sides of the bridge, Del. 1 remains closed due to sand covering the approaches. "The goal here is to remove all the sand from Route 1 to restore access at least to emergency vehicles," said Alastair Probert, maintenance engineer for DelDOT's south district. The might of Hurricane Sandy combined with surging high tides breached nearly a mile of dunes that had protected the highway north of the new \$150-million Indian River Inlet Bridge. Before crews began removing it Tuesday, the sand measured more than 3 feet deep at points along the roadway, engineers said. DelDOT has drawn employees from around the state to help with the effort. They are

joined by equipment operators from the National Guard, the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the contractor George & Lynch, which has been working to remove the old Indian River Inlet Bridge. The 25 pieces of machinery included front-end loaders, bulldozers and dump trucks – all piling the sand in mounds along the beach. From there, DNREC will begin re-forming the mounds into dunes again forming a protective barrier between the sea and the roadway to stand up to more moderate nor'easters and other storms, said Tony Pratt, administrator of shoreline and waterway management for DNREC.

EPA Revises Superfund Negotiation Policy to Achieve Timelier Settlements

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a revised policy that seeks to achieve timely superfund settlements by allowing earlier, more frequent dialogues between EPA and potentially responsible parties. The revised policy sets forth new procedures for managing the duration of remedial design/remedial action negotiations between EPA and potentially responsible parties on their liability, willingness, and ability to implement long-term remedies selected in records of decision, according to EPA. Instead of the current system that requires EPA regional offices to request approval from headquarters to extend negotiations past certain milestones, the policy will allow the regions to engage in a dialogue with headquarters and the Justice Department about the process of negotiations, according to a memorandum setting out the policy. The memo, "Revised Policy on Managing the Duration of Remedial Design/Remedial Action Negotiations," is dated Sept. 28 and was recently posted on the agency's website. EPA sent the memo to regional offices and the Justice Department.

Blog: Shale gas boom makes some Pennsylvanians richer — and some poorer

WASHINGTON POST In recent years, states like Pennsylvania have seen a massive natural gas boom as improved drilling techniques have allowed companies to extract natural gas from shale rock in the Marcellus. The boom has helped drive U.S. natural gas prices down to stunningly low levels and has upended the country's energy sector. But how does it affect the people living in those regions? For states such as Pennsylvania, there are pros and cons. On the plus side, all that production creates thousands of jobs and boosts income for locals. Residents with land that's suitable for drilling can sign over their mineral rights to a gas company. In exchange, they can receive up to thousands of dollars up front, as well as royalties on the gas that's extracted. For some landowners, that can mean tens of thousands of dollars or more. But there are risks, as well. Scientists are still trying to assess whether drilling for shale gas — through a technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking" — can contaminate nearby groundwater. Fracking involves cracking open the shale rock with pressurized water, chemicals and sand in order to extract gas. If the well casings are faulty, or if fracking occurs too close to aquifers, either chemicals or methane could conceivably contaminate nearby drinking water. For now, there's little evidence that this is occurring, in part because studies are still scarce, but it's an ongoing concern. Ideally, in trying to craft regulations around gas drilling, state governments would try to balance those risks against the benefits. So far, however, those risks have been fairly difficult to quantify. That's what makes this new NBER working paper by Lucija Muehlenbachs, Elisheba Spiller and Christopher Timmins so interesting. The authors try to look at how shale-gas drilling has affected property values around drilling sites in Pennsylvania. Doing so, they say, can help give a better sense of how to tally those upsides and downsides.

A swollen Potomac slowly recedes

WASHINGTON POST Like a snake that just swallowed its dinner, the Potomac is bulging with water from the week's rain, spilling over its banks into Georgetown and Alexandria with each high tide. But even as the river flushed down several inches of rain that fell on its watershed beginning Sunday, weather experts said the massive storm system will not lead to the historic flood levels they once feared. The National Weather Service said moderate

flooding will continue through Thursday afternoon, projecting that the river will reach about two feet above normal in Alexandria and Georgetown at high tide late Wednesday night. "Georgetown and Alexandria typically flood a couple of times a year," said Jason Samenow of The Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang. "This will be closer to that, and it's not going to be a historic flooding." Moderate flooding was expected to continue through Thursday along the Atlantic coast. As New York and New Jersey struggled with the storm's devastation, the Washington region began to return to normal Wednesday after two days at a near standstill. People returned to work, schools opened, airports were back in action, the region's trains and buses resumed service, and commuters got back into their cars. And in another sign of progress, Pepco spokeswoman Myra Oppel announced that as of 9:12 p.m. Wednesday, the utility had restored power to all customers who suffered storm-related outages, which was earlier than it had anticipated. Maryland authorities are investigating whether as many as nine deaths since Monday were related to the hurricane. Four of the nine died from exposure — one woman in Montgomery County, another in Prince George's County and two in Baltimore — according to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. A source who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigations were continuing said that one was an Alzheimer's patient who had wandered outside and that another suffered from severe mental illness.

Virginia "in pretty good shape" following Sandy

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH RICHMOND, Va. -- Post-Hurricane Sandy life in Virginia was becoming close to — but not quite — normal Wednesday, with the lights coming on and transportation systems moving. Electricity providers reported most customers had gotten their power back: 25,000 subscribers were still without service across the state Wednesday. Airlines and trains, except those running into and out of the hard-hit New York-New Jersey region, and intercity buses were operating normal schedules again in Virginia. However, nearly 200 sections of Virginia roadways — mostly secondary roads in the state's northern localities — remained closed Wednesday, blocked by trees, flooding and downed power lines, VDOT said. Dominion Virginia Power, the state's largest electric utility, had whittled its number of outages down to 7,000. Appalachian Power, which serves western Virginia, had about 11,300 customers without service, and the state's 13 electric cooperatives reported 6,700 outages remaining. Dominion Virginia Power, based in Richmond, was sending additional crews to Northern Virginia, where about 205,000 customers had been knocked out of service by Hurricane Sandy. "We're on target to have it all wrapped up in Northern Virginia by Thursday evening," said company spokesman Rick Zuercher. In Highland County, two electric co-ops were waiting for a wholesale power supplier to repair a transmission line and return service to about 1,900 members, according to the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. Virginia was "incredibly blessed" in that it took only a "glancing blow" from Hurricane Sandy, Gov. Bob McDonnell said Wednesday. McDonnell spoke in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, where he was surveying storm damage. Sandy's storm surges caused heavy flooding along the Shore and in Tangier Island. Flooding also affected other eastern Virginia localities, from the Northern Neck to Hampton Roads.

About 155,000 without electricity

CHARLESTON GAZETTE CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Both AEP and First Energy repair crews made progress overnight repairing damaged power lines and transmission stations, although about 155,000 customers in West Virginia still remain without electricity following the passage of Superstorm Sandy. According to AEP's website, 71,942 Appalachian Power customers remained without service this morning, including 14,368 in Kanawha County. Power outages in Kanawha County peaked at more than 44,000. First Energy's website was reporting that 83,340 Mon Power customers remained without electricity this morning. Mon Power provides electricity to much of the northern half of the state. Between both providers, 155,282 West Virginian customers had no electricity this morning. AEP hopes to have power restored to all customers by midnight Sunday. First Energy spokespeople predict power should be restored to all customers by the middle of next week.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Pennsylvania suburbs still have a way to recover Planes took to the skies, commuter trains returned to their tracks, and many residents headed to work or school for the first time since last week, as Southeastern Pennsylvania settled back into routine two days after Sandy's winds walloped the region. But for thousands in Philadelphia and its four suburban counties, the power remained out. And while the threat of immediate danger had long passed for most, reports of storm-related deaths and injuries continued to trickle in. Helen Markett, 95, and her 64-year-old daughter, Kathy Griffin, became the 10th and 11th Pennsylvania fatalities from Sandy early Wednesday when a downed power line set their Bensalem home ablaze. A family of four in Solebury Township was also hospitalized Wednesday morning for carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a generator running in their garage. All were expected to fully recover, Police Chief Dominick Bellizzi said. Still, while touring the region's hardest-hit spots with local officials Wednesday, Gov. Corbett acknowledged that "in comparison to what we see in New Jersey and New York, all of us agree we're lucky." By evening Wednesday, 350,000 in Pennsylvania remained without power, with the largest pockets in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. All but two of the Red Cross' area shelters had shut down. And SEPTA's Regional Rail returned to normal service, albeit with significant delays. Philadelphia International Airport was also back up and running, although travelers were urged to check with airlines for specific flight information.

N.J. agonizes over whether to rebuild Shore LONG BEACH TOWNSHIP, N.J. - In its tear of destruction, the megastorm Sandy left parts of New Jersey's beloved Shore in tatters, sweeping away beaches, homes, boardwalks and amusement parks. The devastation left the state a blank canvas to redevelop its prized vacation towns. But environmentalists and shoreline planners urged the state to think about how - and if - to redevelop the shoreline as it faces an even greater threat of extreme weather. "The next 50 to 100 years are going to be very different than what we've seen in the past 50 years," said S. Jeffress Williams, a scientist emeritus at the U.S. Geological Survey's Woods Hole Science Center in Massachusetts. The sea level is rising fast, and destructive storms are occurring more frequently, said Williams, who expects things to get even worse. He and other shoreline advocates say the state should consider how to protect coastal areas from furious storms when they rebuild it, such as relocating homes and businesses farther from the shore, building more seawalls and keeping sand dunes high. How to rebuild after the disaster is becoming an issue even as New Jersey assesses its damage. The state's death toll from Sandy climbed to at least 14, 2 million customers remained without electricity and earth-moving equipment made its way for the first time to hard-hit barrier island communities. National Guard members went door-to-door on Long Beach Island to check on survivors and delivered supplies to heavily flooded Hoboken. President Barack Obama, skipping campaign appearances, came to New Jersey to see the damage

GreenSpace column: When you choose coffee, have a heart for the birds The goldfinches have long since devoured the sunflower seed heads in my garden. Time to get out the feeders and go buy birdseed. Estimates are fuzzy, but at least 55 million Americans join me in this effort, say George Petrides Sr., managing director of the National Bird-Feeding Society. And we spend a hefty sum doing it. Expenditures on seed, feeders, birdbaths, birdhouses, and the like come to \$4.5 billion a year, he said. Helping birds doesn't have to stop there. Two other consumer choices are important - paper products and coffee. First, the paper. I'm talking about facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins. One could quibble over how many trees are cut down just so we can use something once and then throw it away. But the short answer is, plenty.

Across Philadelphia region, downed trees present a challenge Only leaves are supposed to fall in the autumn. Sandy changed all that. The "superstorm" was no superhero to trees in South Jersey, Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania suburbs.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Two groups to combine Quecreek rescue tributes (Tuesday) Those interested in the dramatic rescue 10 years ago of nine miners trapped for more than three days in the Quecreek Mine in Somerset County will now have a single location to experience the "Miracle at Quecreek." The Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation and the Windber Coal Heritage Center announced Monday they will consolidate equipment and other historical artifacts they've collected from the dramatic July 2002 event for display at the foundation's visitors center at the rescue site. "This is certainly

going to be a world-class visitors center when it's completed," said Bill Arnold, foundation executive director and the farmer upon whose land the rescue took place. "The exhibits from Windber are of exceptional quality, they are very adept at telling the story in detail and will fit in nicely here." Until now, both the foundation, which operated the visitors center, and the heritage center, 36 miles away, independently offered exhibitions and artifacts from the rescue. But at the 10th anniversary celebration at the rescue site in July, Mr. Arnold, U.S. Rep. Mark Critz, D-Johnstown, and John Garcia of Rosebud Mining Co., which owns the heritage center, hatched the idea of possibly consolidating the pieces of the historic rescue.

Nearly a million without power in Pa. (Wednesday) HARRISBURG -- A weakened version of Hurricane Sandy traversed Pennsylvania without inflicting the damage received by neighboring New York and New Jersey, but officials said they could not predict when power would return to more than 1 million customers. By the time it reached Pittsburgh late Tuesday, the massive storm that wreaked havoc on New York City and the Jersey shore had evolved into a winter storm with drizzling rain and winds of about 10 mph, Gov. Tom Corbett told reporters at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The storm had not caused major flooding, though smaller rivers and streams had warnings, he said. Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Corbett said his administration would offer assistance to Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York. "Many times we wish we had oceanfront, but you certainly saw the difficult part of what a storm surge can do to a community, particularly like New York City and all along the Jersey shore," Mr. Corbett said. "So we are breathing somewhat of a sigh of relief. I'll breathe a better sigh of relief when we get everybody back on line with their electricity." Electric outages in Pennsylvania peaked at around 1.25 million customers, a number that dropped to 933,000 late Tuesday night, officials said. Nearly 2,500 utility crews from other states were in Pennsylvania to help restore power, said Robert Powelson, chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. He and the governor said it was too soon to know when power would be restored.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

PUC announces drilling fee payments to governments Two local communities are getting more than expected out of Marcellus shale drilling. The state Public Utility Commission announced the amount of money municipalities and counties would receive through the impact fees levied on drillers through Act 13. Despite not having any Marcellus shale wells in Murrysburg, Delmont or Export, each community will receive money that can be earmarked for water, sewage, road repair, recreation and emergency services. Murrysburg will receive \$61,725 — more than the \$58,100 initially expected — and Delmont will receive \$7,224. It was slated to receive \$6,800. That money will be helpful in Delmont, said Council Vice President Cher Anderson. This year, the borough's budget was less than \$1 million, and next year is expected to drop below \$900,000. "Us getting \$7,200, that's terrific. We're going to put it to very good use," Anderson said. "It's a godsend." But not all communities are so lucky. In March, state officials estimated that Export would receive about \$2,550. The borough will receive just half of that amount, \$1,264. Mayor Michael Calder called the decision a "vast disappointment." Calder said a severance tax would have been more suitable than the impact fee. He chastised state officials for the decision. "In the midst of proposed funding slashes for important state programs, our state policymakers and governor had an opportunity to follow the nationwide norm and impose a severance tax on Marcellus shale drilling operations," Calder said. "Their punt on this issue could easily be viewed as a disturbing revelation of their true interests."

Westmoreland emergency crews get a break as floodwaters recede Halloween was a treat for local firefighters, who had worked feverishly before, during and after heavy rains, snow and high winds from Hurricane Sandy hit Southwestern Pennsylvania. "They're taking their naps today," Dan Stevens, spokesman for Westmoreland County Emergency Management, said Wednesday of firefighters who rescued stranded residents and motorists from creeks and streams swelled by rain from the storm that devastated the East Coast. In Latrobe, where firefighters worked for 26 straight hours responding to storm-related incidents, fire Chief John Brasile said emergency calls had stopped Wednesday. "Everything's sort of slowed down," Brasile said. "The Loyalhanna's going down, and that's helping us." The raging Loyalhanna Creek flooded Avenue A in Latrobe, and three men there had to be taken from their home by boat Tuesday.

Mudslides close Route 837 Wet weather from the remnants of Hurricane Sandy is being blamed for landslides that temporarily closed Route 837 in West Mifflin.

NEW CASTLE NEWS

Shale Boom, Part 1: Activity escalating in Lawrence County (Oct. 29) NEW CASTLE — Impact fee and occupancy tax dollars from Marcellus Shale are rolling into Lawrence County, its municipalities and tourism. Meanwhile, the trucks are rolling in, too. A cavalcade of tanker trucks was parked along the northbound Pulaski exit ramp of Interstate 376 last week for a few days, their destination a Marcellus/Utica shale drilling site off Garner Road. Trucks laden with pipe also are making their way into the township as gas transmission line digging gets under way. All are signs of progress for Lawrence County, which — since last year — has seen drilling rigs go up and come down and move on to other sites, exploring the richness of natural gas, and possibly oil, in the area. Thousands of hopeful property owners have signed contracts for mineral rights leasing and now, people in the western part of the county are signing leases to allow pipelines to cross their land. Seismic measuring companies are busy in Little Beaver Township, New Beaver Borough and elsewhere taking measurements in preparation for digging and hydraulic drilling. In Pulaski, excavating started last week on a farm off Route 551 for the laying of gas and water pipeline by Hilcorp Energy Co. of Houston, which has the drilling operation on Garner Road. The company's plans are to drill five wells on property owned by Laird and Joyce Whiting, and, until recently, a rig there could be seen for miles around. Hilcorp secured five conditional use approvals from the township for each well, and has received conditional use approval to build a central facility for processing gas at the Whiting site.

Shale Boom, Part 2: Seismic testing going on in county (Oct. 31) NEW CASTLE — A Texas-based seismic testing company is making a blueprint of underground rock to better prepare companies for shale drilling. Discovery Acquisition Services of Muldoon, Texas, has been in Lawrence County for a few months mapping out underground rock formations over 380 square miles on more than 30,000 tracts of land. Most of it is on private property, but some is also along local and state right-of-ways. "The lion's share of that work is in Lawrence County," explained Josh Baird, ADS project manager, and it extends into parts of Mercer and Butler counties and Mahoning County in Ohio. "We're doing seismic testing, which is mapping the subsurface of the rock showing length, width and depth. We map the rock layers from 3,000 feet to about 16,000 feet underground," and inside of it are the Marcellus and Utica shales. His company's tests tell drilling companies the different depths of rock underground, so that when they drill vertically they can turn the drill bit horizontally and can see the rock formations that go up and down in different elevations, Baird explained. Then when gas company workers drill down, they know how to angle the drill bits to stay inside the rock formation to produce the most oil and gas in that well, he continued, adding, "It also makes it so much safer to have the mapping. It's a much safer drilling process." The seismic testing involves drilling a hole and exploding a charge underground, which generates shock waves that are measured by a monitoring instrument, and in turn, gives information about the rock structure underground. Baird said his company has gotten permission from landowners to go onto their properties by asking them to sign one-page documents. Seismic testing is done only on properties where landowners give their permission, he said. But at least two landowners in New Beaver Borough and in Little Beaver Township beg to differ. New Beaver farmer Jim Yost and Little Beaver landowner Jordan Henderson have not signed agreements and say they have had to tell ADS workers to leave their properties.

Shale Boom, Part 3: Drilling work generates tourism, conservation dollars NEW CASTLE — Lawrence County's conservation district and tourist promotion agency both stand to receive financial boosts from Marcellus Shale revenues.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission recently released a report of the allotments of impact fees to each county and municipality in the state.

But in addition to those previously reported amounts, the county conservation district also will receive money from the funds coming the county's way, Commissioner Dan Vogler said. Commissioner Bob Del Signore said the commissioners also have acknowledged an additional \$40,000 in revenues from the county's hotel occupancy tax for tourist promotion. That injection is due to the number of Marcellus-related workers and other visitors staying in local motels.

Shale Boom, Part 4: Meetings on *shale*-related issues scheduled NEW CASTLE — Several meetings are planned in Lawrence County to address Marcellus Shale issues. The meetings address progress, zoning issues and other concerns. The sessions are:

WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER

Lawsuit alleges drilling contaminated water supply Attorneys for Range Resources and 16 other defendants named in a lawsuit filed by three Amwell Township families are asking the court to order the plaintiffs to release specific evidence regarding their alleged wrongdoings. "We're asking them to put up or shut up," said Range Resources' attorney Dennis St. J. Mulvihill, who led the conference before Washington County Judge Katherine B. Emery, asking her to issue a case management order forcing the plaintiffs to come forward with a basic outline of their case and the evidence they used in the filing of the lawsuit. In May, attorneys John and Kendra Smith filed the 182-page lawsuit on behalf of Stacey, Harley and Paige Haney; Beth, John and Ashley Voyles; and Loren and Grace Kiskadden. The lawsuit claims Range knew its shale gas development operation on the Yeager farm property on McAdams Road in Amwell Township had contaminated the groundwater with chemicals from a leaking drilling waste pit and a 3 million-gallon hydraulic fracturing fluid flowback impoundment as early as November 2010. In addition to Range, the lawsuit includes 12 of the drilling company's subcontractors or suppliers, two individuals and the two water- testing laboratories that reported no contamination. The three families, who live below the drilling site, claim they suffer a multitude of health problems, including nosebleeds, headaches and dizziness, skin rashes, stomachaches, ear infections, nausea, numbness in extremities, loss of sense of smell and bone pain.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Power returning to more midstate customers after Hurricane Sandy The number of homes and businesses in the midstate without power continues to dwindle, now down to about 2,500 in Cumberland, Perry, York, Lebanon and Dauphin counties as of 5 a.m. Thursday morning. Met-Ed said its Lebanon customers should be restored by Thursday evening and the rest of its customers by midnight Saturday

More than two dozen roads remain closed in midstate following Hurricane Sandy The state Department of Transportation says 31 state roads remain closed in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry and York counties following Hurricane Sandy's wrath. While many of the roads closed relate to the damage caused by Monday's hurricane, some are closed due to unrelated construction projects, a PennDOT spokesman said

Sandy has moved on; forecast for central Pa. includes weekend sunshine The clouds are working their way out, and the work week is winding down to a sunny weekend.

ERIE TIMES NEWS

Human cases of West Nile found in Erie County Two Erie County residents have tested positive for West Nile virus, the county's first human cases since 2004. One case was reported to the Erie County Department of Health during the third week of August, while the other was reported during the second week of September. Neither person developed West Nile encephalitis, a rare and life-threatening complication of the virus, said Charlotte Berringer, R.N., director of community health for the county Health Department. "They were ill and evaluated by a medical professional who sent their blood results for testing," Berringer said. The county Health Department is not permitted to release the victims' identities, ages or even say where they live in the county, Berringer said. One of the cases has been lab-confirmed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Lab results haven't been completed for the other case. Health officials saw a resurgence of West Nile virus across the Midwest in 2012, particularly in Texas, where nearly 1,700 people tested positive for the virus and 77 of them died. Thirty-eight human cases and three deaths due to West Nile have been reported in Pennsylvania in 2012. The outbreak in Texas might have played a role in finding the two Erie County cases, said Howard Nadworny, M.D., chief of infection control at Saint Vincent Health Center.

LANSDALE REPORTER

Accidents, power outages across region in wake of Sandy (Wednesday) Superstorm Sandy left her mark on our area

Monday night and Tuesday morning, with fallen power lines, tree branches and scattered flooding tying up traffic and leaving residents in the dark across the region. Area police, public works departments and utility companies spent much of Tuesday cleaning up the damage and working to restore services, with much of Sandy's aftermath including fallen branches and wires on roads, and on a few unlucky homes. "With Hurricane Irene, we got the water and not the wind, and with Sandy we got the wind and not as much water as had been anticipated," said Lansdale borough Manager Timi Kirchner. Several homes in the borough were damaged by falling trees but no residents reported any injuries, she said; a portion of Fifth Street was closed due to flying roof tiles from a building on that street, but no flood damage was reported as of Tuesday afternoon. "We still have a section of the borough where we have problems with electricity, and driving around all day running into people, they're just saying thanks and that they're grateful for all of our staff, in particular the electric department," she said. One department head did experience a close call, during a patrol on Woodland Drive shortly before 10 p.m., she said: "Our Chief of Police was out there and a tree fell onto the back of his vehicle. He's OK, but the vehicle isn't, and it was a pretty large tree."

Lower Gwynedd board discusses reduction in state recycling funding (Oct. 27) Officials said state residents could be unaware of a possible attempt to take their money and make them put it back during the Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors Oct. 23 meeting. Board Chairman Ed Brandt gave a report on the Montgomery County Recycling Committee, made up of 11 municipalities that meet in once a month in Souderton, and said the state was deceiving residents about where their money is going. The committee accumulates all of the recordables of recyclables and send the information to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection "to get our money back," Brandt said. "When you pay a bill in Lower Gwynedd ... and when that trash is picked up and taken to the trash steam plant or a dump — a landfill is a better word for it — there is a \$2 fee included in that \$29 pickup when they drop off, if they charge say \$82 a ton, it's really \$79 and you add \$2 to it and that goes to DEP," Brandt said. He said Lower Gwynedd is a one-hauler system, and its numbers are among the highest per average residential area. He said the state faces a big problem though. Three years ago, then Gov. Ed Rendell "raided our trust fund and took out a huge amount."

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Sandy leaves path of pain locally (Wednesday) Hurricane Sandy left a Montgomery County resident dead, two Lower Bucks teens seriously injured and an Upper Bucks home destroyed by fire — as well as tens of thousands of people without power. At the height of the storm Monday, about 360,000 PECO and 32,600 PPL customers in Bucks and Montgomery counties lost power as Sandy's wind-driven rains downed trees and power lines throughout the area. Many homes and businesses remained without power Tuesday — and with no indication when it might be restored. "From a weather standpoint, this is a much larger, more powerful and dynamic storm than Hurricane Irene last year," PPL spokesman Michael Wood said. "Outages just accumulated remarkably fast." Met-Ed, which serves customers in the upper parts of Bucks County, said more than 1,800 customers were without power in Nockamixon Township, and 500 in Durham. Gov. Tom Corbett said landlocked Pennsylvania managed to avoid the catastrophic damage seen in coastal communities, but still faced serious challenges from the powerful winds and heavy rains that lashed the state. "Anybody without electricity is probably not saying we dodged a bullet," he said. Between 2 and 6 inches of rain fell in eastern Pennsylvania, according to the National Weather Service. High winds were reported across the state with peak gusts of 81 mph reported in Allentown. In Upper Merion, a carbon-monoxide poisoning was attributed to the storm. Officials were still investigating, so details were sketchy. Emergency officials in Bristol Township said two Levittown teens were injured — one critically — after a 30- to 40-foot tree toppled onto them on Blue Ridge Drive in the Blue Ridge section of Levittown on Monday.

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Day after monster storm Sandy (Wednesday) Delco digs in, cleThere was plenty of warning about the arrival of Hurricane Sandy before it hit Delaware County and the surrounding region Monday afternoon and Monday night. But just because you know it's coming, doesn't lessen the impact a storm can have. Many county residents experienced that firsthand by either dealing with downed trees that damaged their property or the widespread power outages. Bill Kobasa had to deal with both. It was just before 10 p.m. Monday when Kobasa was preparing to call it a night in his

Springfield home on Briarhill Road when he heard a loud crash. It turned out the pine tree of neighbors Mark and Stacey Rosser fell on the back room of Kobasa's house. There were no injuries, but the tree snapped the power line that leads to his house, making his the only house on the block without power. "I heard something happen and everybody came out," Kobasa said. "I was getting ready for bed and it made a lot of noise."

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA

Scientists Say Climate Change an Ingredient in Sandy's Destruction On the one hand, climate scientists say "we told you so." But they're not going so far as to say global warming caused Hurricane Sandy. WASHINGTON — Climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer stood along the Hudson River and watched his research come to life as Hurricane Sandy blew through New York. Just eight months earlier, the Princeton University professor reported that what used to be once-in-a-century devastating floods in New York City would soon happen every three to 20 years.

Where the Presidential Candidates Stand on Climate Change WHYY's Radio Times host Marty Moss-Coane speaks with Time Magazine reporter Bryan Walsh about why climate change issues have not come up in any of the presidential debates, or on the campaign trail. Where do President Obama and Governor Romney stand on global warming? How do the impacts of Hurricane Sandy relate to climate change? And also, where do the candidates stand on our country's aging infrastructure? [Listen here.](#)

Weather Related Insurance Losses in North America Have Jumped

Just a week and a half before Hurricane Sandy struck the eastern seaboard, a report by one of the world's leading reinsurers warned of increasing costs of man-made climate change. Costs in North America have jumped significantly. Munich Re insures insurance companies. [Climate Central has more on Munich Re's report:](#)

UNIONTOWN HERALD STANDARD

Storm precautions used at gas wells Chevron has resumed Marcellus shale natural gas production work that was halted as a precaution before Hurricane Sandy struck on Tuesday and is monitoring erosion controls at well sites because of continuing rain, the company said. "Chevron temporarily halted some drilling and completion activity that could have been impacted by severe weather conditions, such as high winds. We have since resumed activities and will continue to closely monitor weather conditions," said Chevron spokesman Nathan Calvert. "We were ahead of it. It was something we were prepared for." The brunt of the storm passed, but rain continued to fall and remains in the forecast through Friday. "We will continue to routinely inspect all of our erosion and sedimentation controls to ensure they are functioning as designed and can accommodate the heavy rain and snow," Calvert said. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) mandates and regulates those controls, which drillers must submit before they can construct well sites, he said. "Erosion and sedimentation controls are there to prevent any runoff from escaping the well site. E&S controls are set up around the site to prevent just that," Calvert said. "We're still getting rain, so we'll keep an eye on it." In preparation for the storm, he said the company drew down water impoundments at hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, sites and storage tanks for production water at producing wells to create storage capacity. The additional storage capacity would have prevented the impoundments and tanks from filling up, he said, noting that the storm could have prevented workers from reaching sites. In addition, employees and contractors were restricted from unnecessary travel. Chevron has about 215 unconventional wells in Fayette County. It also has wells in other parts of southwestern Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio.

DEP public hearing postponed (Tuesday) PITTSBURGH — A state Department of Environmental Protection open house and public hearing for today on a plan approval application filed by Laurel Mountain Midstream LLC has been postponed because of Hurricane Sandy. DEP officials said they made the decision to postpone the New Salem event based on forecasts of the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the region. No new date for the hearing has been selected.

Public hearing to be held on gas-fired energy plant (Monday) PITTSBURGH — The state Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public meeting and hearing on Thursday, Nov. 8, to answer questions and accept comments regarding an air-quality operating permit for a gas-fired energy plant in German Township. The

meeting and hearing will be held at 5 p.m. at the Masontown Volunteer Fire Department at 221 N. Washington St. The Fayette Energy Facility, a gas-fired power plant owned by Duke Energy Fayette II LLC, has been online since March 2003, operating under the terms of a plan the DEP approved in 2002. The agency is currently reviewing the company's application for an operating permit, which would authorize the continued use of those approved terms for its two gas turbines, auxiliary boiler, diesel pump engine, diesel emergency generator and cooling towers. No emission or equipment changes are being proposed in the permit request. During the public meeting, Duke Energy and the DEP will make brief presentations about the permit application and the agency's review process, followed by a question-and-answer session. Immediately following, at 6 p.m., the public may present formal testimony for the public record. Those who wish to present oral testimony should call John Poister, DEP community relations coordinator, at 412-442-4203 or register that evening prior to the hearing. For anyone unable to attend the public hearing, written comment should be submitted to Barbara Hatch, PA DEP Bureau of Air Quality, Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or via email to bhatch@pa.gov. The public comment period will close on Dec. 3.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Blog: Shale gas boom makes some Pennsylvanians richer — and some poorer In recent years, states like Pennsylvania have seen a massive natural gas boom as improved drilling techniques have allowed companies to extract natural gas from shale rock in the Marcellus. The boom has helped drive U.S. natural gas prices down to stunningly low levels and has upended the country's energy sector. But how does it affect the people living in those regions? For states such as Pennsylvania, there are pros and cons. On the plus side, all that production creates thousands of jobs and boosts income for locals. Residents with land that's suitable for drilling can sign over their mineral rights to a gas company. In exchange, they can receive up to thousands of dollars up front, as well as royalties on the gas that's extracted. For some landowners, that can mean tens of thousands of dollars or more. But there are risks, as well. Scientists are still trying to assess whether drilling for shale gas — through a technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking" — can contaminate nearby groundwater. Fracking involves cracking open the shale rock with pressurized water, chemicals and sand in order to extract gas. If the well casings are faulty, or if fracking occurs too close to aquifers, either chemicals or methane could conceivably contaminate nearby drinking water. For now, there's little evidence that this is occurring, in part because studies are still scarce, but it's an ongoing concern. Ideally, in trying to craft regulations around gas drilling, state governments would try to balance those risks against the benefits. So far, however, those risks have been fairly difficult to quantify. That's what makes this new NBER working paper by Lucija Muehlenbachs, Elisheba Spiller and Christopher Timmins so interesting. The authors try to look at how shale-gas drilling has affected property values around drilling sites in Pennsylvania. Doing so, they say, can help give a better sense of how to tally those upsides and downsides.

A swollen Potomac slowly recedes Like a snake that just swallowed its dinner, the Potomac is bulging with water from the week's rain, spilling over its banks into Georgetown and Alexandria with each high tide. But even as the river flushed down several inches of rain that fell on its watershed beginning Sunday, weather experts said the massive storm system will not lead to the historic flood levels they once feared. The National Weather Service said moderate flooding will continue through Thursday afternoon, projecting that the river will reach about two feet above normal in Alexandria and Georgetown at high tide late Wednesday night. "Georgetown and Alexandria typically flood a couple of times a year," said Jason Samenow of The Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang. "This will be closer to that, and it's not going to be a historic flooding." Moderate flooding was expected to continue through Thursday along the Atlantic coast. As New York and New Jersey struggled with the storm's devastation, the Washington region began to return to normal Wednesday after two days at a near standstill. People returned to work, schools opened, airports were back in action, the region's trains and buses resumed service, and commuters got back into their cars. And in another sign of progress, Pepco spokeswoman Myra Oppel announced that as of 9:12 p.m. Wednesday, the utility had restored power to all customers who suffered storm-related outages, which was earlier than it had anticipated. Maryland authorities are investigating whether as many as nine deaths since Monday were

related to the hurricane. Four of the nine died from exposure — one woman in Montgomery County, another in Prince George's County and two in Baltimore — according to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. A source who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigations were continuing said that one was an Alzheimer's patient who had wandered outside and that another suffered from severe mental illness.

Federal offices open Thursday under normal policies Federal offices in the Washington area will be open under regular operating procedures Thursday, the Office of Personnel Management announced late Wednesday afternoon. Employees are expected to report to their work sites or begin telework on time, except for those on leave or off from work under an alternative working schedule.

Commentary: Protecting nuclear plants from nature's worst As super-storm Sandy bore down on the East Coast, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission shut down three nuclear power plants and issued an alert for the Oyster Creek plant in New Jersey. This is an important reminder that the United States has several low-lying nuclear plants on the Eastern seaboard, with minimal protection against inundation. Particularly with climate change increasing the likelihood of extreme weather, this hidden threat to public safety should be remedied. The disaster at Fukushima Daiichi in Japan on March 11, 2011, revealed how much damage a tsunami can inflict on a nuclear power plant. To assess the vulnerability of nuclear power plants around the world, we collected information on plant height, sea wall height and the location of emergency power generators for 89 nuclear power plants that lie next to water. We compared this to historical information on high waves triggered by various sources such as earthquakes, landslides and hurricanes.

Editorial: In the wake of Hurricane Sandy BY WEDNESDAY afternoon, much of the water that had flooded New York City during Hurricane Sandy had receded into the harbor. But recovery crews were still furiously pumping water out of the city's subterranean arteries. Four East River subway tunnels remained inundated. Electricity was still out south of 39th Street, along with many traffic lights, and the city's death toll stood at 22. With New Yorkers scrambling to get around, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I) announced that only cars carrying three or more people would be allowed on bridges or into open tunnels. New York is just one portrait of a disaster that largely spared the Washington region but pummeled areas north.

Commentary: Sandy's closing argument There's something powerful yet perplexing in our response to the havoc wrought by Hurricane Sandy. The universal impulse is empathy for those who've been hurt through no fault of their own and a determination to mobilize collectively via government to ease the pain and fix the damage. Yes, of course, there are utility contractors, religious groups and nonprofits like the Red Cross doing essential work — every hand is needed on deck — but we rightly expect government to lead when it comes to coping with calamity.

OPM: Calculating cost of closings isn't simple There is a cost to closing federal offices, as was ordered in the Washington region and some other areas several days this week, but arriving at a dollar figure isn't so cut and dry. It requires choosing a route through a range of options. In early 2010, Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry estimated that each day of a snowstorm-related closing at the time in the capital region cost \$100 million. However, OPM has produced no cost estimate for this week's closings from the superstorm Sandy. "There is no good way for us to calculate with any accuracy the cost of closing federal government buildings," spokesman Thomas Richards said in an e-mail. "New technologies allow federal employees to work from home and some will find ways to make up their work at no cost to the federal government." OPM estimated about one-third of almost 300,000 federal employees, including emergency staff, in the metro area telework during closings because of weather. But the agency's "Status of Telework in the Federal Government" report to Congress in June, said less than 8 percent of employees telework regularly. Previous closing cost estimates were based on several factors, starting with overall personnel costs. According to the White House's budget proposal submitted to Congress in February, the non-postal executive branch payroll was about \$176 billion in the budget year ending Sept. 30, 2011, the legislative branch payroll was \$2.1 billion, and the judicial payroll \$3.2 billion. Benefits for those employees cost an additional \$64 billion, \$653 million and \$1.1 billion, respectively.

Coastal flooding still a concern for parts of D.C., Maryland and northern Virginia Hurricane Sandy's heavy rains and winds may have subsided, but coastal flooding is still a concern for parts of the District, Maryland and northern Virginia. There was flooding reported in Old Town Alexandria and the Washington Channel Tuesday evening, and residents of flood-prone areas are being advised to expect flooding during high tide on Wednesday. High tides on Wednesday will be around 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. in the Washington area. The National Weather Service reports that high tides will be about two to three feet above normal due to rainwater from Hurricane Sandy flowing down the Potomac River as well as in Rock Creek and the Anacostia River. A coastal flood warning is in effect through Friday for the Potomac shoreline. These are some of the areas where moderate tidal flooding still poses a hazard: Old Town Alexandria, Huntington, the Washington Channel near the Southwest Waterfront, the Georgetown Waterfront, Falls Church, and Arlington, Fairfax and Prince George's counties. Police and local officials remind residents to follow flood safety tips across the region:

Blog: Climate change predictions foresaw Hurricane Sandy scenario for New York City Hurricane Sandy's stunning storm surge practically marooned the Big Apple. But for years, forecasters saw this as a possibility in both the present and more distant future. In my somewhat whimsical post of February 9, 2011, I speculated about what life would be like during the year 2076, our tercentennial, both weatherwise and otherwise. I alluded to concerns over the threat of major storm surge flooding in New York City from a hurricane in an age of rising sea levels. (Also, see Part I of the same story.) My predictions were drawn from a variety of sources and were all predicated on a continuation—and even acceleration — of global climate change. In the aftermath of Hurricane/Nor'easter Sandy and the devastation it has caused in the New York City and coastal New Jersey areas, let's revisit a forward looking report by the 2009 New York City Climate Change Panel that I discussed in that 2076 futuristic outlook. As brought out in my 2011 post, that panel expressed "great concern about the city's hurricane vulnerability, given that most of the critical infrastructure was less than 10 feet above sea level." In particular, the panel mentioned LaGuardia Airport and the city entrance to the Holland Tunnel, which are only 9.5 feet and 7.8 feet above sea level, respectively. (See Part I of this video, which, in 2005, depicted NYC with an 18-inch rise in sea levels. Courtesy of the PEW Foundation.)

From the devastating surge to crippling snow, Hurricane Sandy by the numbers Superstorm Sandy slowly weakened over land Tuesday, but not before leaving behind a massive trail of destruction across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Initial estimates suggest the powerful storm has claimed at least 51 lives and caused up to \$20 billion in damage. With adverse effects from the central Appalachians well into New England, Sandy will long be remembered for the unusual mix of weather conditions it brought millions of people across the Eastern Seaboard. As the numbers continue to come in, let's take a look at some of Sandy's most impressive weather data:

Shell's Alaska drilling season falls short Shell completed its drilling season off the Arctic coast of Alaska Wednesday, falling short of its original goal of drilling as many as six exploration wells. The company said it drilled the top portions of two wells, the Burger-A well in the Chukchi Sea and the Sivulliq well in the Beaufort Sea, without attempting to penetrate deeper reservoirs that could hold oil. The company said that the work would "go a long way in positioning Shell for another successful drilling program in 2013."

Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein charged with trespassing in Keystone XL protest Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein was arrested Wednesday morning in east Texas while attempting to bring food and Halloween candy to protesters camping out in trees to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, according to anti-pipeline activists.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Waterlogged towns dealing with aftermath A pontoon boat was floating down the road past Douglas Malsbury's

canal-front house in South Bethany until someone tied it to a tree. Another boat ended up in a neighbor's front yard. A block away, 30 inches of floodwater had soaked couches and flooring in a home not built on a raised foundation, and the owner's friends were salvaging what they could. The brand-new SUV parked in the driveway wouldn't start; it was waterlogged. Malsbury's two flood-damaged cars were towed away Wednesday morning too. For Malsbury, it was the worst flooding of Delaware's inland bays in his memory. "I've been here for 20 years and I've never seen it this high," Malsbury, 79, said as he looked at damage the flooded canal had done to his back deck. Concrete moorings for the pilings had come apart, pushing in one side of the deck. No part of Delaware was completely unscathed, but the southeasternmost part of the state took some of the hardest hits in the hours before Sandy landed devastating blows on New Jersey, New York and New England. Surging waves and winds drove two feet and more of water and mud into some homes on Prime Hook Beach, and flooding submerged roads, closing off access to Prime Hook Beach and, farther north, to Woodland Beach. Aerial photos show a protective dune at the northernmost end of Prime Hook Beach had been wiped away. For the coastal towns of Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach, South Bethany and Fenwick Island, Hurricane Sandy delivered a counterintuitive kind of damage. Homes in beachfront blocks, closer to the hurricane and the waves it churned up, were generally protected from erosion and flooding by dunes and beach replenishment efforts. But neighborhoods on the west side of Route 1, on the land's downward slope into marshy areas and inland bays, didn't fare as well. West winds from Sandy and storm surges pushed water across canal bulkheads – many homes back up to canals leading to Lighthouse Cove and Little Bay – and onto their streets, causing widespread flooding and leaving sand and debris blocking the road.

Markell lifts state of emergency for Sussex Gov. Jack Markell removed the state of emergency that was still in effect for Sussex County today. The states of emergency for New Castle County and Kent County were lifted Tuesday. Sussex officials reported at 1 p.m. that all evacuation areas had been cleared to open. Shelters at Indian River High School, Dover High School and William Penn High School closed this morning. Bulldozers and a front-end loader from the Delaware National Guard bolstered the contingent of heavy machinery pushing, lifting and heaving tons and tons of sand off of Del. 1 north of the Indian River Inlet in Sussex County this morning, as cleanup from Superstorm Sandy continued around Delaware. Officials from the state Department of Transportation expect workers will finish clearing the sand by day's end. Engineers believe the bridge structure and roadway are structurally sound, but they will continue to assess the physical conditions before motorists may resume use of the highway. On both sides of the bridge, Del. 1 remains closed due to sand covering the approaches. "The goal here is to remove all the sand from Route 1 to restore access at least to emergency vehicles," said Alastair Probert, maintenance engineer for DelDOT's south district. The might of Hurricane Sandy combined with surging high tides breached nearly a mile of dunes that had protected the highway north of the new \$150-million Indian River Inlet Bridge. Before crews began removing it Tuesday, the sand measured more than 3 feet deep at points along the roadway, engineers said. DelDOT has drawn employees from around the state to help with the effort. They are joined by equipment operators from the National Guard, the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the contractor George & Lynch, which has been working to remove the old Indian River Inlet Bridge. The 25 pieces of machinery included front-end loaders, bulldozers and dump trucks – all piling the sand in mounds along the beach. From there, DNREC will begin re-forming the mounds into dunes again forming a protective barrier between the sea and the roadway to stand up to more moderate nor'easters and other storms, said Tony Pratt, administrator of shoreline and waterway management for DNREC.

Firm to weigh in on plan for land Ttract south of Del. City to be assessed. Officials with a national urban design firm will sum up prospects for public or private redevelopment of 43 state-owned acres south of Delaware City and take questions and comments during a public meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 at the community's fire hall. Lawmakers earmarked \$375,000 for an assessment of economic development options on the tract, which includes the underused Governor Bacon Health Center and Fort DuPont State Park. A portion of the park, site of a military installation dating to the 1800s, is classified as a National Historic District. The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control hired Boston-based Sasaki Associates Inc. to lead the development assessment and prepare a master plan. Sasaki's past work includes roles in planning the redevelopment of the historic Presidio in California, Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana and Fort Monroe in Virginia. Gov. Jack Markell suggested the project at Delaware City several years ago when he was state treasurer. Suggestions for the site since then include private

residential and commercial developments, possibly under terms that emphasize the waterside area's historic features and location along the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and Delaware River. Several state agencies still have activities or offices at the health complex or at Fort DuPont, the state's least-active recreation area. "A rejuvenated Fort DuPont will complement efforts under way in Delaware City to spur tourism and economic development, the development of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Trail, and the recently announced Delaware Bayshore Initiative," aimed at expanding ecotourism and conservation across a large part of the state, DNREC Secretary Collin P. O'Mara said.

Editorial: Taxpayers deserved to be kept safe in storm Everywhere we looked on Tuesday, as Superstorm Sandy bruised Delaware's coast with its fury before departing with surprisingly less devastation than we feared, a collective sigh of relief was evident throughout the state's three counties.

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

Markell ends state of emergency for Sandy Gov. Jack Markell Wednesday afternoon Oct. 31 ended the declared state of emergency for Hurricane Sandy. The state of emergency had remained in effect in Sussex County into Wednesday morning to provide authorization for continued evacuation zones until each area was inspected for safety and cleared by Sussex emergency officials. Sussex officials reported at 1 p.m. that all evacuation areas had been cleared to open. Shelters in each county at Indian River High School, Dover High School and William Penn High School that had remained open Tuesday night with evacuees in them closed Wednesday morning. Emergency officials from the city of Wilmington and Sussex, New Castle and Kent counties along with the DEMA concurred with ending the emergency. "Though we were spared the worst of Sandy, we did see significant damage in Delaware, especially in Sussex County and will be working to help those people and areas recover" Markell said. "I again express my thanks to the thousands of people from federal, state, local, private and non-profit organizations who spent the last few days away from their homes and families preparing for and responding to the storm. Their actions and expertise helped keep Delawareans safe, and I appreciate all Delawareans who heeded the warnings, evacuations and driving restrictions designed to keep them safe." Even with the end of the state of emergency period, the governor provided specific authorization for the Delaware National Guard to continue providing support for storm cleanup and damage assessment operations. On Wednesday, DelDOT, DNREC and the National Guard engaged in damage cleanup operations. DEMA, FEMA and local emergency staff performed a damage assessment tour, which begins the process of applying for potential federal disaster help.

Farmers survive high winds, rain Cape Region farmers were ready when Hurricane Sandy hit: Equipment had been moved to higher ground, and most animals were sheltered in place. Rains drenched farm fields, and crop damage will not be reported until later this week. But on the whole, farmers say they have fared well in the face of the most powerful storm to hit the East Coast in many years. Dave Samuhel of Accuweather reported Rehoboth Beach received more than 9 inches of rain, while Milton received more than 8 inches and Georgetown received 10.2 inches during the hurricane, which turned into a nor'easter. Before the storm, Delaware was well behind yearly rain averages. For January through October, the area received 20.72 inches of rain; the normal rainfall through October is 38.59 inches. Samuhel said the region has received only half its normal rainfall through October. "With the storm's 9 to 10 inches of rain, the region is still behind, but now it is only 9 inches behind total, instead of 18 inches," said Samuhel. Delaware Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee said the 10 inches of rain that fell during the storm will go a long way to recharging groundwater resources, as well as ponds and streams.

Delmarva Power has restored service to most customers Delmarva Power has restored electric service to the vast majority of customers who lost power as a result of Hurricane Sandy. At the peak of the storm, more than 71,000 customers were out of service. As of 11 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31, just over 8,600 customers in Delaware and Maryland had yet to be restored. The utility is making major progress in bringing the restoration effort to a conclusion. In Northern ..

Downtown Milton sustains Hurricane Sandy damage Businesses in downtown Milton prepared for Sandy by sandbagging their doors but the Broadkill River surged high enough to breach intended protection. "We have flooding in all the areas we expected," said Win Abbott, town manager. Water flowed underneath doors at Urban

Studio Salon and Vintage Café on Federal Street and also into Milton Public Library beneath the gift shop door, Abbott said. "The library is quite ...

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

About 155,000 without electricity CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Both AEP and First Energy repair crews made progress overnight repairing damaged power lines and transmission stations, although about 155,000 customers in West Virginia still remain without electricity following the passage of Superstorm Sandy. According to AEP's website, 71,942 Appalachian Power customers remained without service this morning, including 14,368 in Kanawha County. Power outages in Kanawha County peaked at more than 44,000. First Energy's website was reporting that 83,340 Mon Power customers remained without electricity this morning. Mon Power provides electricity to much of the northern half of the state. Between both providers, 155,282 West Virginian customers had no electricity this morning. AEP hopes to have power restored to all customers by midnight Sunday. First Energy spokespeople predict power should be restored to all customers by the middle of next week.

State opposed permit deal accepted by company CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's environmental regulators threatened to sue the Obama administration over tougher language in a mountaintop removal permit, even though the company seeking the permit accepted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new water quality limits. The language was contained in one of two key permits that CONSOL Energy still needed to begin operations at the Buffalo Mountain Surface Mine being proposed as part of the King Coal Highway project in Mingo County. EPA had said it would not allow the state to issue CONSOL's Clean Water Act pollution discharge permit without a provision to force action to control mine runoff if levels of pollution-related electrical conductivity, which scientists say is a crucial measure of water quality. Department of Environmental Protection officials opposed the inclusion of such language and in a letter last week threatened to take EPA to court over it. DEP officials eventually agreed to allow the language. EPA dropped its objections to the permit, and on Monday the state issued the permit worked out by CONSOL officials and EPA representatives. "It's not a permit we normally would have approved," said DEP Secretary Randy Huffman. "We feel it has more in it than is necessary." The 2,300-acre permit -- among the largest single strip-mining projects ever proposed in Appalachia -- remains hung up as federal officials complete a more detailed environmental study and review a second Clean Water Act permit to allow mining waste to be dumped into streams. On Tuesday, CONSOL cited "a sequence of permit delays" when it announced plans to lay off 145 workers from an existing operation. Mining is nearly complete at that mine, the Miller Creek operation, and CONSOL had planned to move its workers to the Buffalo Mountain project. The company's announcement prompted strong reactions from West Virginia political leaders, with Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Democratic members of the state's congressional delegation saying they were "incensed" that EPA was delaying the mining permit and the highway project.

Blog: EPA responds to CONSOL permit criticism Last evening's coverage of the CONSOL announcement about layoffs that it and state political leaders are blaming on the Obama administration EPA noted that federal agency officials had not yet commented on the matter — which isn't unusual, given. The AP story included the common refrain from journalists these days that EPA did not respond to requests for comment. In my blog post, I went back and quoted from letters showing EPA's previously expressed concerns about the impacts of this project. Finally this morning, we received the following comment from EPA press secretary Alisha Johnson: *EPA is not aware of any outstanding permitting issues for the Miller Creek mine, where CONSOL Energy has announced that layoffs are occurring. Review of the company's Buffalo Mountain mining project is a high-priority for EPA. The Agency is actively working with the State of West Virginia and CONSOL, and with its partner federal agencies, to assess impacts on water quality from mining, and is meeting with CONSOL to review its mining plans. Last Friday, EPA notified West Virginia officials that the agency's concerns about the State's draft Clean Water Act Section 402*

permit to address potential pollution discharges from CONSOL's proposed Buffalo Mountain Coal Mine have been resolved. The draft 402 permit was submitted to EPA by the state in late 2011, and the state made additional submissions to EPA as late as this October. The Agency then worked to make a decision as quickly as possible. This step will enable the state to approve a permit for discharges associated with the mine. EPA is taking this step after reviewing new information provided by CONSOL, detailing actions that will be taken by the company to reduce potential water quality impacts from the mine. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to review the proposed mine under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and to complete preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act. EPA will work with our federal and state agency partners to complete the CWA and NEPA processes for the Buffalo Mountain project and associated King Coal Highway. Review under the Clean Water Act and NEPA will help ensure that the overall project protects water quality and safeguards public health, while providing valuable economic benefits.

Storm-damaged counties check in with governor, National Guard CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Power outages, roads blocked by toppled trees and the threat of roof collapse from thick accumulations of wet, heavy snow continued to plague West Virginians living in the state's highlands three days after the remnants of Hurricane Sandy stormed into the state. On Wednesday, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, the state's adjutant general, and state emergency management director Jimmy Gianato took part in video teleconference sessions with emergency services officials in 20 of West Virginia's hardest-hit counties. "The idea is to do what West Virginians do in times like these -- we check in on each other," Tomblin said during a break between sessions. Topics discussed included the evacuation of 72 residents of the Summersville Manor apartment complex in Nicholas County before the building's roof partially collapsed early Wednesday, and the storm-related shutdown of the Mount Storm Power Station in Grant County. "Water absorbing into the snow is threatening roofs in areas of heavy snowfall," Gianato said. A total of eight snow-related roof collapses have damaged homes and businesses in Nicholas County so far, including two convenience stores and a grocery store. No injuries were reported.

Blog: Report: 'Serious health and social harms' from coal It's no shock to anyone who reads this blog regularly, but it's still worth checking out this new report commissioned by the group Beyond Zero Emissions. Among the major conclusions: There are clear indications from the international health research literature that there are serious health and social harms associated with coal mining and coal-fired power stations for people living in surrounding communities

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Power still on hold, flooding now on deck CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The remnants of Hurricane Sandy drifted northward Wednesday, leaving at least six dead and about a half million without power in West Virginia. Thousands of West Virginians can expect to be without power through the weekend. Those living in the hard-hit higher elevations remain boxed in by snow and fallen trees. Speaking during a tour in the disaster-stricken Northeast, President Barack Obama said his "main focus" included New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and West Virginia. Those other states were rocked by wind and rain, but it was snow that hammered West Virginia's eastern mountains. The largest snowfall was reported in Nicholas County, which received about three feet near Richwood. Officials in West Virginia began to turn their attention Wednesday to what happens when all that snow melts. Floods are expected if the snow rapidly melts. The snowfall in the state's hardest hit areas will produce 4-6 inches of water once it melts. There were widespread expectations, but no formal warnings for floods Wednesday. Temperatures are expected to rise into the 40s and 50s by Saturday. "It will be a pretty steady stream of water running into the rivers between now and then," said Jonathan Wolfe, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. More showers are expected this weekend. A little storm system is expected to bring some scattered showers on Friday. Another may bring less than an inch Sunday, Wolfe said. He said problems could be particularly acute if the snow did not melt by the time the showers came. In that scenario, melted snow and rain would run off at the same time. As for the power outages, about a half million people were affected by homes without service Wednesday.

6 a.m.: Power out to 154,000 W.Va. customers CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - Utility crews are working to restore service to at least 154,000 customers in West Virginia. FirstEnergy's website says nearly 81,000 customers of Mon

Power and Potomac Edison are without electricity Thursday. A majority of its customers in Barbour, Braxton, Nicholas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur and Webster counties had no power. Preston County had the most outages at 14,000. A Mon Power spokesman had no estimate on when power would be restored. Appalachian Power says it has about 73,000 outages, including 14,000 in Kanawha County. Appalachian Power spokesman Phil Moye said service would be restored by Friday night in Beckley, Bluefield, Hamlin, Hico, Huntington, Logan, Pineville, Point Pleasant, Ripley, Wayne, Welch, and Williamson. Service was expected to be restored by late Sunday night in some other areas, including Charleston and Madison.

National Guard, officials coordinate storm relief CHARLESTON, W.Va. - More than two dozen members of the West Virginia National Guard stared at monitors and swilled coffee Wednesday morning as they helped coordinate storm relief efforts from the Joint Operations Center at the Coonskin Armory Complex in Charleston. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin came to the center to video teleconference briefings from emergency managers in counties hit hardest by the snowstorm brought to the state in large part by Hurricane Sandy. Thousands remained without power overnight, with river levels rising and roofs collapsing in parts of the state where it snowed in the neighborhood of 3 feet. Adj. Gen. James Hoyer, leader of the West Virginia National Guard, sat with Tomblin and state Homeland Security Director Jimmy Gianato during these briefings. Hoyer said 250 Guard members are deployed throughout the state, and that will increase to 350 if the need arises. Considering the damage and help West Virginians needed after the surprise June derecho, Tomlin said advanced warning of this snowstorm definitely helped responders get ready. "I think it could have been a whole lot worse," Tomblin said, adding his thanks for local emergency responders and the National Guard.

Federal homeland security chief checks in on Charleston CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has been in contact with Charleston Mayor Danny Jones to see how those in and around the city are holding up after the remnants of Hurricane Sandy dumped snow and rain onto...

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

Thousands remain powerless BLUEFIELD — Halloween proved to be a little extra spooky for thousands across the region who spent the holiday in the dark. Many families may have to wait until Friday before their electrical service is restored, according to Appalachian Power. Although power was restored Wednesday to an additional 55,000 customers, another 105,726 in West Virginia and 11,069 in Virginia were still without electricity as a result of the strong winds and snow caused by the remnants of Hurricane Sandy. The neighboring towns of Pocahontas and Bramwell were both still in the dark Wednesday. "We have no electricity in Pocahontas," Tommy Childress, the Northern District representative on the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, said. "It (the electricity) hasn't been on since Monday night. I've heard from the vice mayor that Appalachian Power hasn't gotten any closer than Pinnacle Mountain. When the electricity went off in Pocahontas on Monday night, it was snowing a little bit. But we didn't have any heavy snow or strong winds. People in Abbs Valley and Boissevain also don't have electricity. I haven't seen a single Appalachian Power truck in this area." Childress said an emergency heat shelter continues to operate out of Rescue 945 in Boissevain. At least one woman in the Bramwell Hill area had to be relocated to a shelter at the Bluefield Salvation Army. "We are in the process right now of getting a lady on the top of Bramwell Mountain," Captain Jerry Lester of the Salvation Army in Bluefield, said. "She has been without power for two or three days. The lady has been going back and forth into her car trying to keep herself warm. We are going to bring her up here and keep her up here. We are getting people calling in here left and right for food and kerosene and things of that nature. We are getting quite a few calls, and our food supply is starting to go down. So we need monetary donations to help get it re-supplied." Lester said those without power or food are asked to contact the Salvation Army at 304-952-2705 or 304-327-7411 so that arrangements can be made to transport them to the Bluefield shelter.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

WVU researcher gets award to study natural gas MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- A West Virginia University researcher is examining potential sources of pollution that could result from natural gas drilling. The Morgantown school says that assistant professor Shikha Sharma has received \$265,000 from the National Science Foundation to support the

Stable Isotope Research Laboratory. Officials say the lab advances research and training in earth sciences with a primary focus on energy and environmental topics. The grant will fund the purchase of new equipment to analyze compounds, including dissolved natural gases. The research could help find areas where gas is likely to be more abundant and help identify sources of gas and pollutants entering groundwater and streams.

Consol plans W.Va. layoffs over permit impasse CHARLESTON — Consol Energy told 145 workers in southern West Virginia on Tuesday that it will start laying them off in late December because of a dispute over permits for surface mining related to the King Coal Highway project. The Pittsburgh-based coal producer said it plans to idle its Miller Creek operations in Mingo County, which include Wiley Surface Mine, Wiley Creek Surface Mine, Minway Surface Mine, Minway Preparation Plant, and Miller Creek Administration Group. "The facility has operated without a lost-time accident since 1986, an exemplary safety record for the mining industry, and it is unfortunate that they will not be afforded the opportunity to extend that record," Consol President Nicholas J. DeIuliis said in a statement.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Somerset County struggles to recover from Sandy CRISFIELD -- Waterman Johnny Parks was 9 years old when Hurricane Hazel slammed Maryland's Eastern Shore in October 1954. Until this week, he thought he might never see a storm like that again. On Wednesday, he surveyed what Sandy had wrought at the shack where he sorts and packages the crabs he catches on the Chesapeake Bay: a mess of soggy paperwork, an overturned freezer and three antique cars soaked to the floorboards. "I'm 68 years old, and I've never seen water that high," said Parks, of Rumbley, who was among more than 550 people rescued from rising floodwaters in this southwestern corner of the Eastern Shore where residents' livelihood is won and lost on the bay. During the storm, Parks was worried that Ellen, his wife of 44 years who has heart problems, wouldn't survive the terror. At the peak, Sandy knocked out power for 85 percent of Somerset County's 26,000 residents, leaving the self-proclaimed "Crab Capital of the World" among the hardest-hit parts of Maryland. Two days after the storm hit, about a quarter of the population was still without electricity, more than 25 roads remained closed and some 350 people couldn't return to their homes. Caskets floated in an unmarked cemetery along Halls Creek Road in Fairmount, uprooted trees dotted the landscape and standing water surrounded houses throughout the county. At Somerset's emergency operations center, about 30 officials discussed the best strategies for calculating a damage estimate by a 5 p.m. Thursday deadline, what debris to allow at a local landfill and a longer-term housing solution for those displaced by the storm. Washington High School and Academy in Princess Anne is serving as a shelter. The school and others won't be able to open until officials can find a place for the residents housed there. Rex Simpkins, president of the Somerset County Board of Commissioners, said he was grateful to the first responders who deserve credit for helping to ensure no one was injured or died because of Sandy. He said the responsibility for the well-being of the community has now shifted to state and federal governments. "We've never dealt with anything like this before," Simpkins said.

Storm claims one of Baltimore's oldest, largest trees Osage orange in Druid Hill Park believed to be nearly 400 years old. Superstorm Sandy may not have hit Baltimore as hard as weather forecasters had warned, but it did claim one of the city's champion trees, an impressive Osage orange in Druid Hill Park that's been estimated to be nearly four centuries old.

Little danger of Susquehanna flooding expected in Harford; outages continue Nearly 15 percent of homes and businesses in central and southern Harford County still did not have power early Wednesday morning, as residents dealt with the after-effects of Superstorm Sandy. But most flooding danger from the storm appeared to have passed, including along the lower Susquehanna River. "Just notified by conference call that [Havre de Grace] will not have any flooding from the [Conowingo] dam, Susquehanna Hose Company Chief Scott Hurst said via text message

shortly after 11 a.m. Wednesday. Just one floodgate was open at Conowingo Dam at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, according to the Conowingo Spill Condition Hotline. Although the hotline said the dam is operating under "storm conditions," river flow through the dam was being measured at 125,000 cubic feet per second, a strong flow, but typically not enough to cause serious downstream flooding. The hotline also said one to six gates would be open over the next eight hours, well below the 13 or 14 that would have to be open to flood Route 222 along the Cecil County shore of the river. Port Deposit Mayor Wayne Tome Sr. said again Wednesday that the town on the Cecil Shore was not threatened. "Everything's fine," he said. Meanwhile, the remaining power outages around Harford County forced public schools and some local government-related activities in the county to remain closed for a third straight day Wednesday. Many county roads also remained closed because of downed trees and power lines.

After Sandy, food safety can be an issue during power outages If your power is still out you'll need to take care with the food in your refrigerator. Here are some tips from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on how to prevent foodborne illnesses.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Md. governor pledges help for storm-battered Crisfield CRISFIELD, Md. — In a tour of hurricane-damaged areas of Crisfield, Gov. Martin O'Malley on Wednesday pledged state assistance with rebuilding, as well as finding both short- and long-term housing solutions for displaced residents. "We're going to rebuild Crisfield stronger than she was before," he said as he surveyed the badly damaged City Dock with Mayor Percy Purnell. While it is too early to know the full extent of the damage brought to the state by Hurricane Sandy, it appears Crisfield may have been hit the hardest, he said. But as bad as it is there, Maryland was lucky overall. "We dodged a cannonball," he said. "Other states were hit far worse." State officials are in the process of assessing damage in order to get federal disaster assistance, and O'Malley said he has spoken twice to President Obama about the problems in Maryland, which also include heavy snow in Garrett County.

Maryland National Guard members set to deploy Before members of the Maryland National Guard deploy Friday morning, they will be honored at a ceremony today

WORCESTER: Pocomoke River still flooding; Route 113 closed

While ocean waters may have retreated from Hurricane Sandy's surge, inland rivers and creeks continue to flood, closing roads and bridges in southern Worcester County.

EDGEWATER-DAVIDSON PATCH

Sandy's Impact on Chesapeake Bay Less Than Expected

Wind directions, low temperatures and a dry summer all mitigated Hurricane Sandy's impact on the Bay. The impact of Hurricane Sandy on the Chesapeake Bay was less than expected by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "The good news is that this storm came so late in the season that all of our underwater grasses in the Bay are going into a dormant phase like the trees," said Bruce Michael, who is the director of resource assessment for DNR. "A storm of this magnitude would have had a much more detrimental impact on the Bay if it were to come in June or July when things are much more active and alive." The summer was also a dry one, which means reservoirs were at much lower levels and could accommodate more storm water, Michael said. He expects the Susquehanna River, which enters the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay in Havre de Grace, to peak tomorrow night at 8 p.m. DNR estimates the maximum speed of the water will be 174,000 cubic feet per second—less than half the speed necessary to pull sediment into the Bay. Tropical Storm Lee, which hit Maryland in September 2011, dumped four million tons of sediment into the Bay and was far more harmful, Michael said. "That is fairly good news," Michael said. "I know a lot of people that have lost power and have damage might not see it that way." Sandy's winds, which pushed water from west to east, were also in the Bay's favor. "We experienced a blowout event," said David Smith, an associate professor of Oceanography at the U.S. Naval Academy. "What that means is that the water tended to blow out of the tributaries and the Bay into the ocean." As a result, Maryland's western shore experienced far less erosion than it did during previous storms like Hurricane Isabel in 2003, Smith said. The heavy winds also stirred the water in the Chesapeake, which Smith said can help redistribute oxygen more evenly from the surface to the bottom. This

benefits fish and other sea creatures.

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT

Civil Air Patrol begins coastline damage assessment BALTIMORE — Civil Air Patrol's Maryland Wing began photo imaging flights today to document Hurricane Sandy's damage in Calvert County and along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline. At first light Lt. Col. John Henderson, the wing's homeland security officer, flew Christina Mackey of the Calvert County Emergency Operations Center over specific points of critical infrastructure in the county; CAP's photographs will be compared with baseline photographs of the same area to determine the extent of the damage. The photos were taken by Maj. Jim Schmidt and Jeff Koubek, the Harford Composite Squadron's communications and assistant communications officers, respectively. In addition, Capts. Marty Sacks, assistant operations officer for Maryland Wing Group 2, and John Ralph, Bowie Composite Squadron commander, will fly imagery missions today to provide the Maryland Emergency Management Agency with damage assessment photos of the Chesapeake Bay shoreline as well as areas around Ocean City on the Atlantic coast. The hardest-hit areas — including the barrier islands and the Atlantic coastline from the Delaware to the Virginia state lines; the west side of Chesapeake Bay from Gunpowder Falls to Dundalk, Baltimore Harbor and Riviera Beach; and the west side of Chesapeake Bay from Green Haven through Annapolis and to Chesapeake Beach — are designated as top priority. The Maryland Wing will also take photographs of Kent Island, the eastern shoreline in Talbot County, the eastern shoreline of Dorchester County and the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay from Chesapeake Beach south to California, in St. Mary's County. The final sortie will cover the southern part of Chesapeake Bay, including Deal Island south to Crisfield, the islands west of that area and north along the coast to Taylor's Island.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Virginia "in pretty good shape" following Sandy RICHMOND, Va. -- Post-Hurricane Sandy life in Virginia was becoming close to — but not quite — normal Wednesday, with the lights coming on and transportation systems moving. Electricity providers reported most customers had gotten their power back: 25,000 subscribers were still without service across the state Wednesday. Airlines and trains, except those running into and out of the hard-hit New York-New Jersey region, and intercity buses were operating normal schedules again in Virginia. However, nearly 200 sections of Virginia roadways — mostly secondary roads in the state's northern localities — remained closed Wednesday, blocked by trees, flooding and downed power lines, VDOT said. Dominion Virginia Power, the state's largest electric utility, had whittled its number of outages down to 7,000. Appalachian Power, which serves western Virginia, had about 11,300 customers without service, and the state's 13 electric cooperatives reported 6,700 outages remaining. Dominion Virginia Power, based in Richmond, was sending additional crews to Northern Virginia, where about 205,000 customers had been knocked out of service by Hurricane Sandy. "We're on target to have it all wrapped up in Northern Virginia by Thursday evening," said company spokesman Rick Zuercher. In Highland County, two electric co-ops were waiting for a wholesale power supplier to repair a transmission line and return service to about 1,900 members, according to the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. Virginia was "incredibly blessed" in that it took only a "glancing blow" from Hurricane Sandy, Gov. Bob McDonnell said Wednesday. McDonnell spoke in Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, where he was surveying storm damage. Sandy's storm surges caused heavy flooding along the Shore and in Tangier Island. Flooding also affected other eastern Virginia localities, from the Northern Neck to Hampton Roads.

Editorial: Rating Hurricanes: Historic Hurricane Sandy covered a lot of ground. Photographs suggested the storm seemingly stretched from Florida to New England. Armageddon seemed to have descended upon the East Coast. Behold a pale horse. Even before it made landfall, Sandy was projected to rank among the most destructive hurricanes ever. Yet at its peak its strength fell only into the first category. Previous storms had hit numbers four and five. Sandy's dimensions may have made a difference. The devastation was real and heartbreaking to those who

endured it. The aftermath also brought observations that it could have been worse. New York will not soon return to normal, nevertheless. Global warming may have contributed to Sandy's ferocity, but Sandy was not the first storm to inflict serious harm to the United States. The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 claimed 6,000-12,000 lives. Some would say the place never fully recovered. Galveston's fall may have led to Houston's rise. In 1926, a hurricane struck Miami and caused \$150 million in damages. A comparable storm today reportedly could cause \$87 billion in damages — and therein lies a tale. Population growth, development and rising property values ensure that every significant storm will threaten historic highs. Damage estimates increase because there is more to destroy. Climate change likely has an impact on storms, but economic growth is the unmentioned factor in prophecies of doom.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

Some Va. waters to be opened to shellfish harvesting RICHMOND -- The Virginia Department of Health will open a few bodies of water to shellfish harvesting, starting Thursday. Portions of the lower Rappahannock River, Mobjack Bay and lower York River will be open, effective at midnight, a department news release said. An emergency closure was put into effect Monday. The Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay and areas west of and including the Virginia Inside Passage of the Eastern Shore will remain closed because of flooding from superstorm Sandy. Eating shellfish taken from the closed areas could cause illnesses including norovirus, hepatitis A and shigellosis. The affected shellfish are bivalve mollusks including oysters and clams, but not crabs or fin fish, the release said.

U.S. 460 plan hits speed bump over wetlands Even as the state nears a contract on its \$1.4 billion plan to build a new, tolled U.S. 460, it must overcome environmental concerns so great that federal regulators aren't ready to sign off on it. The Army Corps of Engineers remains unconvinced that the Virginia Department of Transportation's chosen route is the best option to minimize damage on wetlands, according to correspondence released Wednesday by the Corps' Norfolk District. The Corps will not permit the project until the matter is resolved, it said. Tom Walker, regulatory branch chief for the Corps of Engineers' Norfolk district, said VDOT has not submitted its permit application and that the agencies have been working for months to reach an agreement. He was scheduled to meet with VDOT staff today in Richmond to continue discussions. "We haven't been getting the information that we've been asking for," Walker said Wednesday. "But they've been communicating with us somewhat regularly now." VDOT released a one-sentence statement through a spokeswoman: "We continue to have an open dialogue with the Corps to discuss these issues." It's unclear whether the situation will delay or spell serious trouble for what has become a priority transportation project for Gov. Bob McDonnell. His administration has touted the 55-mile highway as an economic driver, a release valve for congestion on Interstate 64, a safety improvement for motorists and a hurricane evacuation route. State officials have said they want to have a contract signed by January with the private partner that will design and build the road. Officials announced in mid-October that they had chosen a group led by Ferrovial Agroman, S.A., and American Infrastructure to do the work. The Corps of Engineers has stated its concerns with VDOT's route selection for a new U.S. 460 since as far back as 2005, according to the correspondence released to The Pilot.

9,350 Va. customers remain without power RICHMOND Fewer than 9,350 utility customers in Virginia remain without electricity as a result of superstorm Sandy. Dominion Virginia Power says about 1,750 customers are without service Thursday, mostly in northern Virginia. The utility says it expects to have power restored by Thursday night except in a few locations where flooding or severe damage occurred.

Sandy spotlights cuts to guard, reserves The winds of Hurricane Sandy hadn't even stopped blowing before the storm — and the military response to it — became the latest chip in Washington's game of bluff and counter-bluff over the future of the defense budget. Political commentators were quick to point out that the National Guard troops who helped with the rescue and cleanup were at risk from automatic, across-the-board budget restrictions set to take effect Jan. 2 and more generally would take the brunt of cuts proposed in the Pentagon's fiscal 2013 budget submission. "Even before Hurricane Sandy hit, National Guard armories were opened as shelters," wrote Daniel Goure, a conservative defense analyst with the Lexington Institute. "National Guard units were deployed to provide immediate search and rescue capabilities for cities and towns in the hurricane's path. ... At first light ... National Guard units were on the roads, looking for victims and clearing debris. It is ironic that the National Guard is likely to

be particularly hard hit by proposed defense budget cuts.” The conservative website Breitbart.com responded to Democratic charges that Mitt Romney would cut the Federal Emergency Management Agency by pointing out that it, along with the Guard, might still be cut under Obama. Its headline: “Obama’s sequester proposal slashes funds for FEMA, disaster relief.” At issue is the threat of \$500 billion in reduced defense budget growth over the next decade, known as sequestration, which has loomed over the heads of the Pentagon and the defense industry in the year since Washington’s deal to raise the U.S. debt ceiling. But more broadly, the Guard — and the reserve components of the four military services — also have felt threatened by service leaders’ budget proposals independent of sequester, in particular those of the Air Force.

ROANOKE TIMES

Celanese plant to get \$150 million upgrade - www.roanoke.com A switch from coal to natural gas will allow the aging plant to comply with stricter emission rules. Celanese Corp. will convert the boilers that power its Giles County factory from coal to cleaner-burning natural gas, a move that Virginia officials said Wednesday benefits both the environment and the local economy. The project, which removes the longtime local employer from regulatory jeopardy, is expected to cost \$150 million and create 200 temporary construction jobs, according to a statement by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Once improvements are complete at the facility, its work force, currently at 1,061, will grow by 22 permanent jobs, according to McDonnell's statement and information from local officials. The plant is one of the world's largest producing acetate tow, a material with various uses. Although it is not under any direct government order to make changes, Celanese appears to be responding to tougher rules on burning coal. U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith said revised rules to protect the environment would effectively ban the company's coal-burning boilers in Giles County by about 2015. While a state environmental regulator said the specific effects of new laws on the plant are a gray area, Griffith said: "We'd have lost those jobs to some other country." However, Celanese plans to install new boilers and to do so by 2015, which officials said helps ensure the plant for long-term use. "This tremendous investment will allow the plant to improve its energy production capability, while positioning Celanese for profitable growth and job creation in the years ahead," McDonnell said. Rounding out the plan, two natural gas companies have agreed to build a two-state pipeline to the plant within an established right of way, Griffith said. For the company, the switch to gas means "improved reliability and favorable progress against our environmental and sustainability goals," said a statement by said Lou Purvis, a vice president and general manager at Celanese. Company officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday, which left unclear why the company ultimately choose to upgrade the Giles County plant rather than invest elsewhere. The governor's office said Celanese considered investing the \$150 million in other company plants.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

Va. rehabilitation center to release bald eagle WAYNESBORO-- A bald eagle that has been nursed back to health by the Wildlife Center of Virginia is returning to the wild. The Waynesboro center says the release is planned for today at the 378-acre Zoar State Forest in King William County that's managed by the Virginia Department of Forestry. The adult eagle was rescued by an animal control officer at the King and Queen County landfill in early October. After a physical exam, the bird was found to have low levels of lead in its blood and had two pieces of metal in its stomach. The center's veterinarians treated the eagle with antibiotics and fluids. Since its founding in 1982, the center has cared for more than 60,000 wild animals. So far in 2012, it has admitted 30 bald eagles.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

EPA Revises Superfund Negotiation Policy to Achieve Timelier Settlements

EPA revises its superfund site negotiation policy to achieve timely settlements by allowing earlier, more frequent dialogues between EPA and potentially responsible parties. The revised policy sets forth new procedures for

managing the duration of remedial design/remedial action negotiations between EPA and potentially responsible parties on their liability, willingness, and ability to implement long-term remedies selected in records of decision, according to EPA.

Consol to Idle West Virginia Mining Sites, Blames EPA Permit Delays Consol Energy Inc. announces it will idle Miller Creek surface coal mining operations in Mingo County, W.Va., and lay off 145 workers, beginning Dec. 30. The company attributes the shutdown of the Miller Creek operations to delays in receiving the environmental permits necessary to continue all its planned mining operations. The Pittsburgh-based energy company says that Miller Creek miners were going to be reassigned to its nearby Buffalo Mountain mine, but EPA concerns over planned valley fill of area streams has slowed the project's progress

Analysts Say Strict Ozone Rule Would Leave Much of U.S. in Nonattainment EPA's science advisers have said the agency could be justified in considering an ozone air quality standard between 50 parts per billion and 70 ppb, and experts say much of the country would not be able to meet a standard on the more stringent end of that range. Attaining a standard of 50 ppb would be difficult, particularly in areas where background levels of ozone are around that level, they say. EPA is reviewing the existing standards and expects to make a final decision in September 2014 on whether revisions are needed. The Clean Air Act Scientific Advisory Committee is due to meet Monday as part of the review

Virginia Proposes Tougher General Permit for Small Storm Sewer Systems The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is set to propose tougher rules for small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) in developed areas that are subject to mandatory water quality restoration programs under the Clean Water Act. Under the proposed regulation, each MS4 operator in areas covered by a total maximum daily load plan for the first time would have to develop and maintain TMDL action plans for reducing pollutant loads to levels allocated to their MS4s.

COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW

Transparency Watch: A Closed Door -- From the EPA to NASA, the FDA to OSHA, President Obama has failed to make science accessibleIn July 2009, just months after President Obama took office promising to revolutionize government transparency, leaders of the Society of Environmental Journalists participated in an hour-long conference call with public-affairs staffers working for Lisa Jackson, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Jackson's office wanted to hear what the reporters' gripes were when it came to access, and Christy George, then the society's president, and her colleagues obliged, outlining their most persistent problems: the requirement to seek permission for interviews with agency scientists and experts, and difficulty arranging those interviews; the requirement to have press officers, or "minders," on the phone during interviews; and the glacial pace of processing Freedom of Information Act requests. Jackson's assistants asked for the benefit of the doubt. "We're not the Bush administration," George recalled them saying. "Those days are left behind." For a while it seemed that might be true. The agency finally released a ruling, suppressed by the administration of George W. Bush, which states that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public welfare by contributing to climate change, and therefore can be regulated under the Clean Air Act. And it took smaller but appreciated measures, like opening more lines on press calls to accommodate reporters from smaller outlets and conducting those calls later in the day to accommodate reporters on the West Coast. Unfortunately, the honeymoon was short-lived. One of the first signs of distress came during a January 2010 press call to discuss the EPA's new budget. The agency surprised reporters by declaring that everyone on the line except Jackson was speaking on background. When members of the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) later complained, two press officers conceded that the on-background rule was foolish, as George reported in an issue of group's quarterly newsletter. Yet the agency pulled the same stunt three months later. Then things got even worse.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama tours storm damage; Republican Gov. Christie praises president BRIGANTINE, N.J. (AP) -- President Barack Obama soberly toured the destruction wrought by superstorm Sandy on Wednesday in the company of New

Jersey's Republican governor and assured victims "we will not quit" until cleanup and recovery are c...

GREENWIRE

Sandy overwhelms East Coast water systems, but impacts are likely local, short-lived Hundreds of millions of gallons of raw or partially treated sewage poured into waterways across the Eastern Seaboard as Hurricane Sandy's rain overwhelmed sewers and wastewater treatment plants, prompting health advisories and boil alerts in counties across the region. A water reclamation plant in Howard County, Md., lost power for 12 hours, forcing it to dump an estimated 20 million to 25 million gallons of untreated wastewater into the Little Patuxent River, in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In Brooklyn, N.Y., the 1.8-mile Gowanus Canal, a Superfund site, overflowed, adding toxic chemicals to the stew of raw sewage and debris floating through waterways. Just north of New York City, two wastewater treatment plants shut down, pouring their sewage into the Hudson River. In hard-hit New Jersey, 13 wastewater treatment plants had problems, and Atlantic City issued a boil alert after its plant experienced flooding. Nineteen treatment plants in Maryland faced power outages or overflows, as did nearly two dozen in Pennsylvania. With this summer's derecho fresh in mind, DC Water began preparations early, cleaning out catch basins across the district, providing sand bags for flood-prone areas of the city and bringing in food and cots for the crews who worked overtime during the storm

Researchers find 'probable link' between C8 and high cholesterol, likely sparking lawsuits An independent panel of scientists has found a "probable link" between a compound DuPont used in nonstick products like Teflon and high cholesterol. The findings by the trio of epidemiologists are the last in their lengthy research into the effects of C8, or perfluorooctanoic acid, which DuPont used at its Washington Works facility in Wood County, W.Va., from 1948 to 2002. As a result, DuPont will provide health monitoring for some residents and may face additional personal injury lawsuits. The most recent study, presented to a Wood County Court on Monday, found links to high cholesterol, but no associations with high blood pressure or coronary artery diseases including angina. The panel also did not find a link between C8 exposure and nonmalignant liver disease, nonmalignant kidney disease and osteoarthritis. The scientists have been working on C8 health effects in the Mid-Ohio Valley since a court established the panel as part of a \$107.6 million class-action settlement between West Virginians and DuPont in February 2005. The residents claimed they were exposed to C8 primarily through water contamination caused by DuPont's plant.

Drilling activity in Pavillion, Wyo., not fouling the air -- study While natural gas drilling and its possible impacts on groundwater in Pavillion, Wyo., remain an issue of heated debate, the air the residents breathe in the small northwest Wyoming town is clean, state regulators say. That is based on the final results of a more than yearlong air quality study that was conducted by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality in response to complaints from some Pavillion-area residents. The state DEQ set up a mobile air quality monitor downwind of a large natural gas field operated by Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., nearly 6 miles east of the town that stands at the epicenter of the ongoing debate over hydraulic fracturing and its potential impacts to public health and the environment. The air quality monitor measured for ground-level ozone and particulate matter (PM) pollution, along with various hydrocarbons associated with gas drilling and methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Samples were collected between Jan. 27, 2011, and March 31 of this year. The results of the air monitoring revealed no violations of the federal ozone or PM standard, although ozone concentrations reached the federal 75 parts per billion threshold on May 26, 2011. The DEQ "believes this was part of a regional stratospheric ozone intrusion event, as elevated concentrations were also measured at other [state] monitoring stations," according to a 12-page summary of the monitoring data.

Consol blames new layoffs on Obama EPA; union chief hits Romney for industry woes Consol Energy Inc. said yesterday that it plans to idle strip-mining operations at its Miller Creek complex in far southwestern West Virginia, leaving about 145 miners out of work just days after Christmas. Consol is blaming permit delays on a related project for having to suspend most operations at the complex, which includes several strip mines in Mingo County. The mining industry has for years complained about intervention from federal agencies, particularly U.S. EPA, for hurting projects in Appalachia. "The failure to obtain timely permits despite our efforts in planning and cooperating with multiple agencies of jurisdiction is frustrating and is having a direct impact not only on these employees and their families, but on all state residents," said Consol President Nicholas Delulio. The Miller Creek complex has

produced more than 1.55 million tons of coal so far this year, mostly from surface operations, Consol said. Underground mining at the complex will not be affected. The news comes amid tough times for the U.S. coal industry and days after Consol announced an \$11 million net loss for the quarter that ended on Sept. 30. Many mining companies have idled mines amid low coal demand and competition from cheap natural gas.

Scientists see extent of storm's damage linked to climate change For many, reports of Hurricane Sandy's massive reach and destructive potential raised a simple question with a complex answer: Is this climate change? The answer, experts say, is a qualified "yes." Late-season hurricanes like Sandy aren't unusual. That the hurricane melded with a blast of Arctic air as it moved ashore, transforming into a powerful "post-tropical" nor'easter, is rare but not unprecedented. And scientists are quick to point out that they cannot yet definitively link an individual storm, like Sandy, to climate change. But Kevin Trenberth, head of the climate analysis section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, said it is likely that man-made global warming made Sandy stronger than it otherwise would have been. Ocean temperatures along the East Coast were roughly 5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal as Sandy approached, and about 1 degree of that can be attributed to global warming, Trenberth said. Warmer ocean temperatures mean warmer air, which holds more moisture as it heats up, providing more energy for a storm like Sandy. "With higher temperatures in the ocean and warmer air, the potential for the storm is simply to be greater, more intense, with especially heavier rainfall as a consequence," Trenberth said. "This, I think, is very clear. There is the role of global warming in this." Jonathan Overpeck, co-director of the University of Arizona Institute of the Environment, agreed, as the debate over climate change's influence on Sandy heated up on Twitter on Monday night.

Smart meters live up to promise in storm recovery, utilities say BALTIMORE -- In a mobile command center parked near a football stadium, Bob Johnson awaits the arrival of a convoy of utility repair trucks from Georgia, part of an army of repair crews called in to attack the wreckage of power lines, poles and transformers caused by Hurricane Sandy. Behind him, a display screen shows a satellite map where outages are presented as red circles, staging areas for crews are flagged with GPS tags to direct crews to their destinations, and online updates track the progress of repairs. Johnson is the director of emergency preparedness for ComEd, the Chicago utility that is part of Exelon Corp. The trailer, trucked in from Chicago by a team from Exelon, the parent of Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., is one element of the expanded but still piecemeal U.S. smart grid infrastructure that is getting its most extensive test in the storm's wake. When the storm struck Monday, Pepco, the utility serving the nation's capital and its Maryland suburbs, began getting wireless signals from smart meters on its network registering where individual customers had lost power, said Marcus Beal, senior project manager for Pepco's smart meter program. One of the first movers to install smart meters, Pepco has 725,000 in place and had activated 425,000 of them before the storm struck. Instead of relying solely on customers to call in outage information on specific neighborhoods, Pepco dispatchers can track damage based on smart meter signals that are automatically linked into the utility's outage map, guiding priorities for deploying repair crews, Beal said. As repairs proceed, the utility is also able to "ping" meters remotely to verify where and when power has been restored.

REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

US eases clean gasoline rules in East after Sandy

The U.S. environmental regulator waived clean gasoline requirements through November 20 on the eastern seaboard to help ease a supply crunch after Hurricane Sandy ripped across the region's energy system. "I have determined that an 'extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstance' exists that will prevent the distribution of an adequate supply of gasoline to consumers," Lisa Jackson, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, said in a letter on Wednesday to governors of the states. New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and 13 other states had requested a waiver in requirements to sell reformulated gasoline, or RFG, in smog-plagued regions of the country. The waiver also applies to states in the mid-Atlantic including Maryland and states in the South including Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Sandy damaged petroleum storage facilities and caused pipeline delays that are projected to prevent the distribution of RFG in areas hit by the storm, Jackson said in the letter. East Coast fuel supplies could be tight into next week as flooding and downed power lines slowed the recovery of two New Jersey refineries, including the Phillips 66 (PSX.N) Bayway plant, the region's second largest. On Wednesday some drivers in New Jersey were forming long lines to buy gasoline and causing traffic delays on several highways. On Route 17

in the north of the state lines to buy gasoline were backing up onto the road. "Route 17 is like a parking lot with cars lined up in the slow lane on both sides," said Erin Gardner Myers, a motorist coming home from work. "It's really bad out here." Under the waiver the EPA will allow fuel retailers to sell conventional gasoline in place of RFG effective immediately. It also allows some states to mix conventional and RFG to ease supply issues.

NEW YORK TIMES

Editorial: Worrying Beyond Hurricane Sandy It is small comfort to sodden and stranded New Yorkers that Hurricane Sandy's flooding of the city's infrastructure, from power lines to subways to low-lying communities, was predicted in grimly precise detail by scientists in the latest state and city climate studies. Deeper and more frequent flooding from Rockaway to Lower Manhattan and the city's transit tunnels has been a repeated warning that largely went unnoticed by the public and most politicians. But now, with the floods from Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene last year on his watch, Gov. Andrew Cuomo is pointedly stressing what he considers the inevitability of more such disasters. "Climate change is reality," the governor said Wednesday, estimating Sandy's economic damage up to \$6 billion. "Given the frequency of these extreme weather situations that we've had — and I believe that it's an increasing frequency — for us to sit here today and say this is a once-in-a-generation and it's not going to happen again, I think would be shortsighted." Mr. Cuomo admits that he does not have all the answers nor enough government money for all the proposed solutions. And we can all hope that he is wrong in his forecast. But the urgency of his warning is rooted in a basic fact of nature underpinning the government studies: New York's coastal waters, which rose an inch per decade in the last century, are heading toward rates of 6 inches per decade as the oceans warm and expand. That would be a disastrous rise of 2 feet across the next 40 years, for anyone planning ahead. And there aren't many in government planning ahead as the postrecession political debate grinds along the question of how to slash government improvements, not expand them.

GRIST MAGAZINE

You'll never eat crabs again: Barry Levinson's eco-freakout 'The Bay' In the summer of 1997, fish in the Chesapeake Bay started turning up dazed, dying, and covered with bleeding lesions. The culprit was a toxic microbe called *Pfiesteria piscicida*, which was flourishing in the warm, polluted waterways. The one-celled organism, discovered less than a decade earlier, had already killed millions of fish in North Carolina. Now it had spread north — and it was infecting humans, too. More than a dozen watermen exposed to the microbe-laden water fell ill with sores, intestinal woes, and neurocognitive impairments such as confusion and memory loss. By September, with a national media panic in full gallop, three Maryland rivers were closed to all commercial and recreational use. Seafood sales plummeted, as buyers swore off Maryland crabs and other bay delicacies. An investigative commission blamed the outbreak on high levels of phosphorus, a byproduct of the region's vast chicken industry. Take that kernel of reality, add steroids, CGI, and the herky-jerk verisimilitude of the found-footage horror genre, and you have *The Bay*, director Barry Levinson's spookily plausible exercise in old-school cautionary eco-freakout. The film hits theaters this Friday, Nov. 2.

PLATTS (ENERGY TRADE NEWSLETTER)

Marcellus gas production continues undaunted despite Sandy Natural gas production in the Northeast is continuing at a high pace despite the devastating effects Hurricane Sandy had on homes and businesses in much of the region. On Wednesday, some Marcellus Shale-area producers were saying there was very little impact to their operations, and data from Bentek Energy, a unit of Platts, showed minimal drop-off to total Northeast gas production flow. Northeast production flow was pegged at about 8.81 Bcf for Wednesday, down slightly from 8.83 Bcf on Tuesday. Monday's flow total was higher, at 9.06 Bcf, but flows were lower over the weekend and late last week, when the October 26 flow was at 8.84 Bcf. "Cabot was fortunate," said George Stark, spokesman for Cabot Oil & Gas. "Our operations, including production, were not adversely impacted by the storm."